

BYLAWS OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

Article I—Name and purpose.

Section 1—Name. This body shall be known in full as The Second Legislative District Democrats of Washington State, abbreviated 2LD.

Section 2—Purpose. 2LD exists to promote citizen participation in the Democratic Party through advancing understanding of principles and programs that reflect the values of the Democratic Party, and to support and work for election of Democratic candidates and candidates for nonpartisan office who demonstrably espouse those values.

Article II—Dual nature of 2LD.

Section 1—The Party Organization. Washington State law and the Charter and Bylaws of Washington State Democrats assign certain duties to the Party Organization, including, among others, election of officers and nomination of candidates for public office. The Party Organization meets at least once per quarter, usually in the same place and time as the 2LD association. Its duties and composition are detailed in Article VI of these Bylaws and in Article IX of the Washington State Democrats' Bylaws.

Section 2—The 2LD Association. The 2LD association includes as voting members all Party Organization members plus all who attend meetings, are willing to be publicly identified as Democrats, and have paid dues [or have had dues waived because of inability to pay] for the current year. No one will be excluded from attending meetings because of not having paid dues. Monthly meetings include explorations and discussions of issues, candidates' stances, and similar educational and advocacy purposes.

Article III—Membership.

Section 1—Precinct Committee Officers. All elected, appointed and acting Democratic Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) registered to vote in the Second Legislative District shall be members of the Party Organization and of the 2LD Association. Duties and privileges of PCOs are explained in the Washington State Democrats' current *PCO Handbook*. In this context, "elected" means "certified by civil authorities and Washington State Democrats"; "appointed" means "approved by the executive body or the Central Committee of the Democratic Party in the county in which they reside"; and "acting" means "appointed to serve as a guide to a precinct but not residing in that precinct."

Section 2—Other Members. Any other voter registered to vote in the Second Legislative District who declares him/herself to be a Democrat may become a voting member of the 2LD Association upon payment of current dues [or having dues waived because of inability to pay].

Section 3—Membership Dues. The amount of annual dues shall be set at the first meeting of each calendar year. Dues shall be effective for the remainder of the calendar year in which paid and shall include provisions for participation by those with limited income or inability to pay [WSD Charter, Art. VII.A.3 and VII.C.1.e.]. Additional donations will be encouraged and accepted at any time but shall not be a condition of membership.

Article IV—Meetings.

Section 1—Regular Meetings. Regular meetings are scheduled as agreed by the membership; normally this time is the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The District Executive Board may change the schedule for a particular regular monthly meeting, so long as an attempt to notify all mem-

bers has been made at least two weeks before the monthly meeting to be changed, and schedule of all regular meetings may be changed by a majority vote of members present at two consecutive regular meetings. Unless otherwise provided by the Charter or bylaws of Washington State Democrats, these bylaws, or statutory governing documents, publication on the district website at least one week in advance of a meeting shall suffice as notice.

Section 2—Reorganization Meeting. A reorganization meeting for the District shall be held during December or January following each biennial general election held in an even-numbered year. Business shall be conducted in accordance with state law and rules established by Washington State Democrats, and with consideration of actions of the county Democratic organizations within which the Second Legislative District is situated.

Section 3—Special Meetings. A special meeting may be called by 25% of the membership, 25% of the PCOs, or, after consultation with available officers, by the Chair.

Section 4—Quorum. A quorum for conduct of business shall consist of those members present at a regular meeting, those elected PCOs present at a reorganization meeting, or a minimum of 25% of the membership including at least two elected officers at a special meeting.

Article V—Officers/Executive Board.

Section 1—Titles, Duties, and Election.

Titles. The officers of 2LD shall be the Chair, the Vice Chair for Administration, the Vice Chair for Activities and Programs, the State Committee Woman, the State Committee Man, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Collectively, these officers constitute the Executive Board of 2LD.

Duties of the Chair. The Chair of the District is responsible to set agenda for, and preside at, meetings; to represent 2LD at the executive body of the county in which s/he resides; to maintain liaison with Washington State Democrats and other Legislative Districts, and Pierce and Thurston County Democratic parties; to monitor (in concert with the Vice Chairs) actions of standing and *ad hoc* committees; and to perform other duties required by these Bylaws or by action of the membership.

Duties of the Vice Chair for Administration. The Vice Chair for Administration must be of the sex opposite that of the Chair. This officer is responsible to preside at meetings if the chair is unable to preside; to assist the chair in planning meetings; to represent 2LD at the executive body of the county in which s/he resides; to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of 2LD; to administer PCO development; to monitor some standing and *ad hoc* committees as agreed; and to perform other duties as specified by these Bylaws or by action of the membership.

Duties of the Vice Chair for Activities and Programs. The Vice Chair for Activities and Programs is responsible to preside at meetings if the chair and the vice chair for administration are unable to preside; to assist the chair in planning meetings; to represent 2LD at the executive body of the county in which s/he resides; to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of 2LD; to plan and carry out social events and fundraising activities; to monitor some standing and *ad hoc* committees as agreed; and to perform other duties as specified by these Bylaws or by action of the membership.

Duties of the State Committeewoman and the State Committeeman. The State Committee members are responsible to represent 2LD at regular meetings of the Washington State Democrats. including but not limited to interpretation of Resolutions and Motions passed by the membership for consideration by the state Central Committee; to take part in decisions reserved to the State Central Committee; and to report to the membership concerning actions of the State Central Committee in order to keep the membership informed of significant issues, decisions, and implications.

Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary is responsible to maintain current mailing lists; to prepare and distribute minutes of each meeting; and to perform other duties such as distributing correspondence.

Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer is responsible to collect and provide receipts upon request for dues, donations, and payments; to pay bills as authorized by the Executive Board; to maintain current membership rolls; to report monthly to the organization; and to work to assure compliance with requirements of the Public Disclosure Commission.

Election of Officers. All officers shall be elected at the biennial reorganization meeting of the District Democratic Party Organization. Officers are not required to be PCOs but must be members registered as voters in the Second Legislative District willing to be identified publicly as Democrats. Only PCOs elected during the primary election preceding the reorganization shall be eligible to vote for the Chair, the Vice Chair for Administration, the State Committeewoman, and the State Committeeman. All members of the organization are eligible to vote for the Vice Chair for Activities and Programs, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Newly elected officers shall take office at the close of the reorganization meeting, and outgoing officers are responsible to turn over official records to their successors as soon as feasible after the meeting has adjourned.

In any contested election of an officer, the vote shall be by written, signed ballot. A majority shall be required to elect. In uncontested elections, individuals may be elected by acclamation.

Section 2—Vacancies in Office. Offices may be vacated by written resignation, death, issues of health that do not allow the individual to write a resignation, or recall by the membership. Recall of any officer requires written notice, signed by at least five members, of whom at least three must be PCOs, and presented to the membership as a special order of business at the beginning of the next regular meeting or at a special meeting called in accordance with Article III, Section 3 of these Bylaws. If the person being recalled is not the Secretary, the notice shall be delivered to the Secretary. If the person being recalled is the Secretary, the notice shall be delivered to the Chair.

A notice of recall shall specify, at least ten days in advance of the meeting at which it is to become an item of business, the grounds or alleged actions which would justify the removal from office, and all parties present at the meeting, including the accused, shall be given opportunity to support, oppose, or question the cause of recall. If the Chair is accused, the meeting shall be led by the Vice Chair next in line. The officer being recalled shall not be allowed to vote on the motion itself. A simple majority of all PCOs who reside in 2LD may remove the individual from office [Specified in RCW 29A.80.061 for Chair of the District; extended to all elected officers by this Bylaw provision].

Section 4—Replacement of Officers. At the next regular or special meeting of 2LD after a position is vacated, a replacement officer shall be elected. In the case of the Chair, the Vice Chair for Administration, the State Committeewoman, or the State Committeeman, only PCOs elected or appointed prior to the beginning of the vacancy shall be allowed to vote, and the vote shall be by signed written ballot unless uncontested. In the case of other officers, all regular members shall be allowed to vote. In either case, a majority of those present, eligible, and voting is required to elect a replacement.

Article VI—The Party Organization.

Section 1—Membership and Composition. All elected, appointed, and acting Democratic PCOs who reside in the Second Legislative District, plus elected officers, are *ex officio* members with voice in the Party Organization. Generally all *ex officio* members also have vote in the Party Organization, except as provided by Washington State law or policies of the Washington State Democrats [**e.g.**: for reorganization meetings, only PCOs elected in the previous primary election are allowed to vote, even though officers need not be PCOs; for specified nominations for public office,

PCOs must have been elected or appointed before specific cutoff dates and their votes are weighted by formula; officers who are not PCOs are specifically excluded from these votes].

Section 2—Meetings. The Party Organization shall meet at least quarterly; normally meetings are scheduled in conjunction with regular meetings of 2LD.

Article VII—Other Committees.

Section 1—Standing Committees. Standing committees may be initiated by majority vote of members present and voting at any regular or special meeting, or by the Chair in consultation with at least three other officers. Once created, standing committees shall continue in existence until the next biennial reorganization meeting unless disbanded by majority vote of members present and voting at any regular or special meeting. Two standing committees are required both by history and by external authorities: the Executive Board (detailed in Article V, above) and the Committee on Elections and Affirmative Action (duties specified by Washington State Democrats).

Section 2—Ad Hoc Committees. Within the limits of authority as defined by Washington State law and dictates of Washington State Democrats, *Ad hoc* committees may be formed by the Chair in consultation with at least three other officers, by vote of any Standing Committee, or by the membership at any regular or special meeting. As the *ad hoc* committee is formed, it shall have a task and a tentative ending date for its project, with an expectation of a report on or before that date.

Article VIII—Parliamentary Authority. In matters not governed by law, the Charter and Bylaws of Washington State Democrats, or these Bylaws, the parliamentary authority shall be the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Article IX—Amendments.

Section 1—Proposed amendments. An amendment to these Bylaws may be proposed at any regular or special meeting, so long as notice of the amendment and its wording has been offered at the previous regular meeting. When it has been so offered, the notice of amendment shall be included in the minutes of the previous meeting and it shall be a privileged item of agenda (before old business) at the meeting when the amendment is officially moved. If an emergency amendment is proposed without waiting for a following meeting, it is subject to the provisions of Section 2 below.

Section 2—Conditions for passage of amendments. Any amendment presented with notice as defined in Section 1 may be debated and submitted to the membership for passage. Two thirds of the Party Organization's members who are present and voting, or an absolute majority of the Party Organization's members, whichever number is fewer, shall be required for passage.

An emergency amendment (that is, presented without notice as defined in Section 1) may be passed temporarily under the same conditions as an amendment presented in normal fashion except that it must be approved by at least a majority of all eligible PCOs, but in order to continue in effect it must be affirmed at the next regular meeting with the same restrictions as an amendment presented with notice. If affirmed at this second meeting, it shall become effective as a regular amendment.

Section 3—Effective date of amendments. Amendments presented with notice become effective at the end of the meeting at which they are passed. Emergency amendments, presented without notice, take effect during the meeting at which they are first passed, but do not become a permanent part of these Bylaws until they have been affirmed at the next regular meeting.

Approved by the Second Legislative District Democrats' Party Organization on January 12, 2009